CLAIMS

1. A method of establishing a telephone call over a communications network at a specified time using a web-based telephony application, said method comprising the steps of:

(i) accessing a uniform resource identifier (URI) comprising the specified time and also comprising information about a call source and destination; and

(ii) at the time specified in the URI, instructing a telephony switch to set up a telephone call between the source and destination specified in the URI.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step (i) of accessing a URI comprises receiving the URI from another entity selected from a web site and a software application on a user terminal.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step (i) of accessing a URI comprises receiving the URI from a web-based conference call booking application.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step (i) of accessing a URI comprises receiving the URI from a calendar application on a user terminal.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said URI comprises time zone information.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said information about the call destination comprises a directory number (DN).

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said URI comprises a plurality of directory numbers and a plurality of time ranges, one for each directory number.

8. A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said step (ii) comprises instructing the telephony switch to set up a telephone call to one of the directory numbers depending on the current time and the time ranges.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises automatically programming a feature key at a telephone terminal at one of the call source and call destination with the specified time such that the properties of that feature key change at the specified time.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises instructing the telephony switch to display the URI at a telephone terminal at the call source.

11. A web-based telephony application for establishing a telephone call over a communications network at a specified time, said web-based telephony application comprising the steps of:

(i) an input arranged to access a uniform resource identifier (URI) comprising the specified time and also comprising information about a call source and destination; and

(ii) a computer program arranged to control a telephony switch in order to set up a telephone call between the source and destination specified in the URI at the time specified in the URI.

12. A signal for setting up a telephone call over a communications network said signal comprising a uniform resource identifier (URI) which itself comprises time information.

13. A signal as claimed in claim 12 wherein said URI further comprises one or more directory numbers (DNs).

14. A signal as claimed in claim 12 wherein said URI further comprise time zone information.

15. A signal as claimed in claim 12 wherein said URI comprises a plurality of directory numbers and a plurality of time ranges, one for each directory number.

16. A web-browser which is arranged to receive a plurality of URIs each comprising time information and to select one of those URIs on the basis of the time information in each of the URIs.

17. A web-browser as claimed in claim 16 comprising a parser arranged to parse uniform resource identifiers which comprise time information.

18. A software application which is arranged to control a processor which is connected to a communications network such that uniform resource identifiers (URIs) are created which comprise time information and sent to other entities within the internet protocol communications network for the purposes of establishing a telephony call.